

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that Congress should override the recent FCC decision regarding media ownership.

I worked for a company which was forced to close largely, in part, because of media mergers. Most of the 500 or so employees I had the privilege of working with have yet to find a job, and it's been almost a year.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited. How can the FCC expect different views when the sources are the same?

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC's decision to allow our media outlets to merge stands, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Jana Schnell
Journalist